

# India



## Muslims & Christians

Muslims and Christians are the two largest groups detained for their religious beliefs. Indian authorities have arrested both Muslims and Christians under false claims of facilitating forced conversions. Religious clerics have been accused of arranging marriages. Muslim student activists have also been detained for their religious freedom advocacy, often under anti-terrorism laws.



## Rona Wilson

RELIGION OR BELIEF:

Christian

ARRESTED: June 6, 2018

REASON FOR PERSECUTION:

Human rights and civil rights work for religious and marginalized communities



## Meeran Haider

RELIGION OR BELIEF: Muslim

ARRESTED: April 1, 2020

REASON FOR PERSECUTION:

Leading peaceful protests opposing the religiously discriminatory Citizen Amendment Act (CAA)



## Umar Khalid

RELIGION OR BELIEF: Unspecified

ARRESTED: September 13, 2020

REASON FOR PERSECUTION:

Leading peaceful protests opposing the religiously discriminatory Citizen Amendment Act (CAA)



## Irfan Mehraj

RELIGION OR BELIEF:

Muslim

ARRESTED: March 20, 2023

NATURE OF CHARGES: Terrorism

REASON FOR PERSECUTION:

Human rights work and journalism for vulnerable religious communities



## Rupesh Singh

RELIGION OR BELIEF:

Unspecified

ARRESTED: July 17, 2022

REASON FOR PERSECUTION:

Journalism for vulnerable religious and marginalized communities

## Dalit Rights Activists

Activists have been detained for advocating on behalf of Dalits (members of India's lowest caste), as illustrated by the 2020 arrest of 16 advocates in Bhima Koregaon. While many Dalits are Hindu, they face discrimination and violence and lack recognition in Hindu society. Dalit Christians also face severe religious intolerance.



## Gokarakonda Naga Saibaba

RELIGION OR BELIEF: Unspecified

ARRESTED: March 7, 2017

SENTENCE: Life Imprisonment

REPORTS OF MEDICAL NEGLECT: Yes

REASON FOR PERSECUTION:

Criticizing state violence against religious and marginalized communities

## ForB Victims List Stats

# 55 out of 2,125

Religion or Belief	# of Victims
Muslim	22
Christian	15
Unspecified	12
Hindu	4
Adivasi	1
Sikh	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>

Type of Abuse	# of Victims
Detained	53
Imprisoned	1
House Arrest	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>

Reports of	# of Victims
Torture	2
Medical Neglect	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>

## Frank R. Wolf FoRB Victims List Background

The International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (IRFA), as amended by the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act of 2016, requires USCIRF to:

*make publicly available, to the extent practicable...lists of persons it determines are imprisoned or detained, have disappeared, been placed under house arrest, been tortured, or subjected to forced renunciation of faith for their religious activity or religious freedom advocacy by the government of a foreign country that the Commission recommends for designation as a country of particular concern [CPC]...or by a nonstate actor that the Commission recommends for designation as an entity of particular concern [EPC].*

USCIRF developed the Frank R. Wolf Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) Victims List—an online public database—to implement this provision for countries USCIRF recommends for Country of Particular Concern (CPC) or Special Watch List (SWL) status. The list also includes such victims located in the de facto territories of nonstate actors that USCIRF recommends for Entity of Particular Concern (EPC) status, according to the same criteria.

Due to limited resources, USCIRF is unable to identify and document all victims that meet the statutory requirement to be included on the FoRB Victims List and generally relies on receiving submissions from outside individuals and organizations. As such, the information contained in the database does not reflect country, regional, or global trends. Furthermore, percentages highlighted in this section should not be used for extrapolation purposes nor interpreted as a particular group experiencing greater violations than another or a particular country committing violations at a greater rate than others. To support this project, USCIRF invites those with credible information on victims to submit information using the Victims List Intake Form at [www.uscifr.gov/form/uscifr-victims-list-intake-form](http://www.uscifr.gov/form/uscifr-victims-list-intake-form).

## FoRB Victims List Stats Overall

Perpetrator	Victims Documented
Algeria	5
Azerbaijan	11
Burma	5
China	770
Cuba	11
Egypt	18
Eritrea	50
Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)	2
Houthis	3
India	55
Indonesia	8
Iran	339
Iraq	2
Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP)	1
Kazakhstan	15
Malaysia	4
Nicaragua	15
Nigeria	9
North Korea	9
Pakistan	90
Russia	449
Saudi Arabia	46
Sri Lanka	1
Tajikistan	13
Turkmenistan	30
Uzbekistan	87
Vietnam	77
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,125</b>

Religion or Belief	Victims Documented
Adivasi	1
Baha'i	163
Bon	1
Buddhist – Hoa Hao	6
Buddhist – Theravada	3
Buddhist – Tibetan	76
Buddhist – Unspecified/Other	28
Christian – Catholic	46
Christian – Church of Almighty God	236
Christian – Jehovah's Witness	258
Christian – Orthodox	17
Christian – Protestant	130
Christian – Unspecified/Other	66
Duong Van Minh	4
ECKist (Eckankar)	1
Erfan-e Halgheh Practitioner	2
Falun Gong	213
Hindu	10
Humanist	1
Jewish	1
Muslim – Ahmadiyya	23
Muslim – Qur'anist	1
Muslim – Shi'a	39
Muslim – Sufi	63
Muslim – Sunni	385
Muslim – Unspecified/Other	237
Santeria	5
Scientologist	1
Shaman	1
Sikh	1
Yarsani	37
Unknown/Unspecified	69
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,125</b>

# India



## Not Released

Abdul Rashid Dawoodi  
Abdullah Gautam  
Adya  
Ansingh Ninama  
Fahad Shah  
Gulfisha Fatima  
Hany Babu  
Irfan Mehraj  
Jagtar Singh Johal  
Jam Singh  
Javed Mohammed  
Javeed Khan  
Jyoti Jagtap  
Khalid Saifi  
Khurram Parvez  
Kumtu Vasuniya  
Mahesh Raut  
Mangu Mehtab Bhuriya  
Meeran Haider  
Qazi Jahangir Qasmi  
Ramesh Murlidhar Gaichor  
Ramesh Vasuniya  
Ranga Ben  
Rona Wilson  
Rupesh Singh  
Sagar Tatyrao Gorakhe  
Saju Ben  
Sama Ben  
Sharjeel Imam  
Shifa ur-Rehman  
Shoma Sen  
Sudhir Dhawale  
Surendra Gadling  
Umar Gautam  
Umar Khalid  
Gautam Navlakha  
Gokarakonda Naga Saibaba

## Released

Anand Teltumbde  
Arun Ferreira  
Asif Iqbal Tanha  
Atikur Rahman  
Devangana Kalita  
Hidme Markam  
Ishrat Jehan  
Kaleem Siddiqui  
Kishor Ram  
Mohammed Zubair  
Nandha Nathaniel  
Natasha Narwal  
Safoora Zargar  
Savita Singh  
Siddique Kappan  
Teesta Setalvad  
Vernon Gonsalves

## Died in Custody

Stan Swamy